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NOTE

Ixodes downsi (Acari: Ixodidae) from Peru

Ixodes downsi Kohls was originally described from Aripo Cave, Trinidad, on the basis of a male, female, and three nymphs found on the wall of the cave, and one larva found on a bat, *Anoura g. geoffroyi* Gray in the cave (Kohls 1957. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 59: 257-264). On the basis of this scant information, Kohls (op. cit.) speculated that it might be a bat tick although he noted that oil birds, *Steatornis caripensis* Humboldt, nested in the cave and a large rat was also seen (in the cave). *I. downsi* has not been recorded since the original description.

We report a second locality for the species at a considerable distance from the type locality. An engorged female was collected from the throat of a young, fully feathered *S. caripensis* found on the floor of a cave near Tingo María, Department Huanuco, Peru, on 11 February 1975 by Baker. Bats were heard in the cave but none were seen and several unidentified parrots flew from the cave. This locality is approximately 2600 km southwest of the type locality, on the

opposite side of South America. The finding of a specimen on an oil bird only confuses the issue as to whether *I. downsi* is a bat tick or a bird tick. There are no known species of *Ixodes* commonly found on both birds and bats, and additional collecting from hosts will be necessary before the true host relationships can be ascertained.

The length and width measurements of the engorged female from Peru, compared with those of the unengorged allotype female in parentheses, were 7.22 (2.53) mm and 4.07 (1.87) mm, respectively. In all other respects the Peruvian specimen agrees with the original description.

The specimen will be deposited in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Gainesville, Florida.

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